



Connecticut Psychiatric Society

*A District Branch of the
American Psychiatric Association*

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1085

An Act Concerning the Legalization of the Retail Sale and Possession of Cannabis and Concerning Erasure of Criminal Records in the Case of Convictions Based on the Possession of a Small Amount of Cannabis

The Connecticut Psychiatric Society (CPS) is a District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association and is composed of nearly 800 members. CPS focuses on advocating for patients and those who care for them; promoting and disseminating professional values; supporting education and career advancement; and strengthening the scientific basis of psychiatric diagnosis and treatment.

CPS is in opposition to HB 7371 because there is insufficient medical and public health evidence to demonstrate that recreational marijuana is safe and poses little to no public health risk. CPS advises that further medical and public health research be conducted in order to develop a more complete risk and safety profile of recreational marijuana. CPS cautions the CGA against creating new public health risks as a result of the legalization of recreational marijuana.

However, in the event that the legalization of recreational marijuana is implemented, then CPS strongly recommends the following, in accordance with the harm reduction methods outlined by the Connecticut Marijuana Harm Reduction Consortium:

- The age of purchase of recreational marijuana be restricted to 25 years of age or older.
- All state revenues, including taxes, licenses and other fees, derived from the sale of recreational marijuana be exclusively directed towards funding of public health research and/or the treatment of substance use disorders.
- A review board should be created to have oversight over how these revenues are distributed.
- A database of marijuana purchases should be created.
- Advertising, packaging and labeling restrictions should be put in place.
- Restrictions on dispensaries and retail marijuana stores should be required.
- Operation of any vehicle, aircraft or watercraft while under the influence of cannabis should be illegal.
- Marijuana possession should be limited to 1 ounce.
- Mandatory monitoring and testing of samples for contaminants and quality should be put in place.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Shaukat Khan

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